country by the Border Roads Organisation;

(b) whether any facilities such as housings, clothing, food and ration has been provided to them at their place of work;

(c) what is the maximum high altitude at which these workers work and the number of such workers;

(d) what is the total expenditure incurred by Border Roads Organisation in road construction, per metre of road as compared with road construction in urban areas and villages; and

(e) whether Government have made a study of the efficiency of Border Roads Organisation and its maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The total number of regular officers|workers employed in the Border Roads Organisation is as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Officers . . . . | 1195 |
| (ii) | Subordinates . . . | 44335 |

(b) Yes, Sir. Govt. provides facilities such as free single accommodation to both officers & workers, free uniforms to subordinates & outfit allowance to officers and free food|rations for officers|men working in field units.

(c) The maximum high altitude at which Border Roads workers are working is 18,380 ft. Approximately, 5,700 employees are deployed between 8,000 ft. and 18,380 ft.

(d) The approximate per Km. cost of construction of road (with 20 ft. width, 12 ft. payment and protective works), but, excluding the cost of permanent bridges by the Border Roads Organisation varies between Rs. 13 lakhs to 27 lakhs depending upon the terrain and climatic conditions. A comparison of the cost of construction of roads by Border Roads Organisation with the cost of construction of roads in urban areas and villages has not been undertaken, since the factors affecting the cost are not comparable in the two cases.

(e) A high level technical committee set up in 1979, which examined the cost of construction and maintenance by Border Roads Organisation, *inter-alia*, recommended measures to improve the productivity of the Organisation. The majority of recommendations of this Committee have already been implemented.

**Acquisition of AWACS or Hawkeys from US**

2096. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to acquire AWACS or Hawkeys from United States, in view of the impression given by Mr. Robert H. Peleutreane Jr., as reported in the columns of Hindustan Times dated March 7, 1987; and

(b) if not, what alternative is being thought of to meet the challenge from AWACS supplied to Pakistan by US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government have no proposal to acquire AWACS or Hawkeys from the U.S.A.

(b) Adequate steps are being taken to meet the threat in the event of acquisition of AWACS by Pakistan.

**अनिवासी भारतीयों की फिजूलखर्ची**

2097. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव:** क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 17 जून, 1987 के "जनसत्ता" में "सामान्य प्रवासी भारतीयों का करोड़ों रुपया फिजूलखर्ची" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है और यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है, जैसा कि समाचार में कहा गया है कि 20 अरब

रुपए की विदेशी मुद्रा ठीक से निवेश न होने के कारण खर्च कर दी जाती है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि विदेशी मुद्रा की हमारी प्राप्तियां आठवें दशक के मुकाबले लगातार घटती ही जा रही है और खाड़ी के देशों में काम घटने के कारण भी आय घटती जा रही है ?

**वित्त मंत्रालय में व्यय विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी० के०गढवी) :** (क) और (ख) जी, हां, । तथापि यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि अनिवासी भारतीयों से पूंजी निवेश प्राप्त करने लिए सरकार के पास कोई योजना नहीं है । अनिवासी भारतीयों/भारत मूल के व्यक्तियों के लिए निवेश संबंधी सुविधाओं को वर्ष 1982 में उदार बना दिया गया था । इनमें अप्रत्यावर्तन तथा प्रत्यावर्तन दोनों ही आधारों पर निवेश करने की सुविधाएं शामिल है । अनिवासी भारतीय, भूगहादि परिसम्पत्ति के कारोबार को छोड़कर, मालिकाना हक वाले किसी भी कारोबार, साझेदारी के व्यापार और संयुक्त पूंजी वाली कम्पनियों में अप्रत्यावर्तन आधार पर पूंजी का निवेश कर सकते हैं । प्रत्यावर्तन योजना के अन्तर्गत किसी भी प्रौद्योगिक/विनिर्माण-कारी क्रियाकलाप में पूंजी लगाई जा सकती है और भारतीय कम्पनियों में, अनिवासी भारतीय (बाह्य) रुपया खातों में, विदेशी मुद्रा अनिवासी खातों में रकमें जमा के रूप में रखी जा सकती है और भारतीय यूनिट ट्रस्ट के यूनिटों, राष्ट्रीय बचत पत्रों तथा सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों में पूंजी का निवेश किया जा सकता है ।

(ग) जी, नहीं । वास्तव में, विदेशी मुद्रा की प्राप्तियों में सतत वृद्धि हुई है । इसी प्रकार अनिवासी भारतीयों द्वारा भेजी जाने वाली वार्षिक राशियों में भी गत दशक की अपेक्षा आठवें दशक में वृद्धि हुई है ।

**Reduction of subsidy on food and fertilizers**

2098. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to prune the non-plan expenditure and to reduce food and fertilizer subsidies to the tune of Rs. 2900/- crores;

(b) whether Government have also considered the alternative proposal of providing subsidies only to the economically weaker sections of the society; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The non-plan expenditure of the Government, which includes subsidies on food and fertilizers, is reviewed from time to time with a view to containing it within reasonable limits. Government's policy in regard to subsidies on food and fertilizers is designed to benefit mainly the economically weaker sections of the society. There is no proposal at present to change this policy.

**Insurance scheme for poor failed in Delhi**

2099. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the insurance scheme, which was introduced for the poor in Delhi, has failed; and

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the slow implementation of the said insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme was introduced in the country in certain selected districts including the Union Territory of Delhi with effect from 15th August, 1985. According to the Scheme, applications for compensation in the case of accidental death of earning members of poor families, are to be made on prescribed forms to the Claims Enquiry-cum-Settlement Officer (CESO). The CESO on receipt of applications, makes enquiries and on being satisfied that the applicant belongs to a poor family within the framework of